

issues; she was honored in 2004 with the Alumni Community Service Award; and, her alma mater recognized and honored her through the American Legion, by putting a copy of her book, *What's in the Water*, on display in the St. Norbert College's library.

In 2019, Wilson was appointed to serve as an officer on the Delta Council as a presidential appointment. She has also served as a board member for numerous organizations: Jackson, Tennessee Area Chamber of Commerce; March of Dimes; The Boys and Girls Club; Jackson Arts Council; The Jackson Symphony; United Way; Jackson, Tennessee Chapter of the Links, Inc. (Past President and Vice President); and NAIA (Vice Chair).

With over 30 years of experience in education, social services, corporate business, public relations, marketing, she has received civic and leadership awards and recognition for work in areas of: Teen Pregnancy Prevention, Black Adoption Awareness, Services to Youth, NAACP, and the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. She is married to Sidney Wilson, Jr. They have two children: Janice (graduate of Columbia Law School), and Sidney, III (graduate of Vermont Law School). She has a grandson, Elias, and granddaughter, Tiarra.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Velma Benson Wilson for her dedication in serving her community.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE REAL ID GENDER REQUIREMENT REFORM ACT

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 12, 2021*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the REAL ID Gender Requirement Reform Act, which would remove the requirement from the REAL ID Act that REAL ID-compliant licenses include gender. Instead, the decision whether to have gender on a state's REAL-ID

compliant would be left to the states. The bill would also require that if a state requires gender designation for licenses, an individual wishing to change their gender designation on their license be allowed to do so through self-attestation. It would also require states to have a neutral or other designation gender field, in addition to male or female. This is an important bill for equality, especially for transgender Americans.

Under the REAL ID Act, gender must be included on a license. This can be problematic for transgender or nonbinary individuals. I recognize that some LGBTQ individuals do not want gender designations on licenses at all, while others do want gender designation so as to express their identity. I believe this bill strikes the middle ground, while showing Congress' support for LGBTQ individuals.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

#### RECOGNIZING OCTOBER AS HINDU HERITAGE MONTH

**HON. DARIN LAHOOD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 12, 2021*

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, today, I would like to observe the month of October as Hindu Heritage Month. The month of October serves as a time for Hindu communities across the country to join together and celebrate their culture and its diverse spiritual traditions. Hindu Heritage Month is a celebration of the Hindu faithful that hold services in 32 states across 91 congressional districts, including the devoted and faithful Hindu community of the 18th Congressional District of Illinois.

Communities of faith have long served as beacons of hope, sharing their beliefs, and supporting their communities through service. The vibrant Hindu-American community is no different and I am proud to support the examples of service in the 18th Congressional District by my constituents.

The United States is a deeply faithful Nation, and I am proud to support the celebration of October as Hindu Heritage Month. May this month bring awareness in recognizing and acknowledging the contributions made by Hindu-Americans and increase awareness and understanding of the Hindu-American community.

#### HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 12, 2021*

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month. As this special time of the year winds down, I want to offer my sincerest appreciation to all our Hispanic brothers and sisters across Ohio, and our great country. Lorain, Ohio is home to the largest Puerto Rican population west of New York City.

Last week, I had the privilege to join the Lorain Historical Society in our district to unveil their new exhibit entitled, "Celebrating 100 Years of Latino History in Lorain, Ohio". Co-ordinated by partnerships with the Lorain Historical Society and local community and educational institutions, this proud art and cultural exhibition of Hispanic excellence was on display throughout National Hispanic Heritage Month. One story focuses on Lorain's Vine Avenue.

In the early 1920's, Vine Avenue became home to a large population of Mexican immigrants who were brought to the city as part of contract labor to work in the agriculture and steel industries. Now, Hispanics make up 30 percent of Lorain's population. The city remains full of life with the rooted culture of music, arts, cuisine, and culture from the Latino community.

Again, to those celebrating, I wish all a joyous celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month 2021.